1	IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
2	FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
3	HOUSTON DIVISION
4	IN RE: \$ CASE NO. 20-33948-11 \$ HOUSTON, TEXAS
5	FIELDWOOD ENERGY, LLC, \$ THURSDAY, \$ APRIL 1, 2021
6	DEBTOR. \$ 3:58 P.M. TO 4:28 P.M.
7	STATUS CONFERENCE (VIA ZOOM)
8	
9	BEFORE THE HONORABLE MARVIN ISGUR UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE
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12	APPEARANCES: SEE NEXT PAGE
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15	(Recorded via CourtSpeak; No log notes)
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## 1 APPEARANCES (VIA ZOOM): 2 3 FOR THE DEBTOR: WEIL GOTSHAL & MANGES, LLP Alfredo Perez, Esq. 4 700 Louisiana, Suite 1700 Houston, TX 77002 5 6 FOR CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY: LOCKE LORD, LLP MCMORAN OIL & GAS, Bradley Knapp, Esq. MERIT ENERGY CO., U.S. 601 Poydras Street, Suite 2660 SPECIALTY INS. CO., and New Orleans, LA 70130 7 9 HCC INTERNATIONAL INS. CO. 10 LOCKE LORD, LLP Philip Eisenberg, Esq. 600 Travis, Suite 3400 11 Houston, TX 77002 12 13 AD HOC GROUP OF SECURED DAVIS POLK & WARDWELL, LLP LENDERS: Damian Schaible, Esq. 14 450 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10017 15 16 17 (Please also see Electronic Appearances.) 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

## HOUSTON, TEXAS; THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021; 3:58 P.M.

THE COURT: All right. We're going to call Fieldwood Energy. It's 20-33948. I've enabled three of the lines: Mr. Grizz (phonetic), Mr. Perez, and Mr. Eisenberg. If somebody wants their line enabled right now, that's fine.

I wanted to get the initial status report on where we were and thought those might be the right people. And I don't mean to pick who's going to speak for a particular client. So I see Mr. Knapp there smiling. Maybe I should have clicked his line instead of Mr. Eisenberg's. And just let me know if that's the case.

MR. KNAPP: Your Honor, (indiscernible) that group sounds pretty good to me, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. KNAPP: Duane Brescia may -- Duane Brescia would also be -- may be able to add some color to the (indiscernible).

THE COURT: So Mr. Schaible has asked to be added to that. I've added him. Let's find --

MR. PEREZ: And, Your Honor, I think we need Ms. Choi. I need a lawyer on the line to help me.

THE COURT: Ms. Choi is now on and Mr. Brescia is now on. And --

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you -- and thanks to Mr. Perez. That's why I had Mr. Knapp on the phone.

THE COURT: So I think we now have Mr. Knapp on the phone. Mr. Knapp, is that your line I got? It came in on the trunk line.

MR. KNAPP: Yes, Your Honor. I'm at 226-1327. Thank you very much.

THE COURT: Yeah. It came in at 226-1200, which is why your name isn't with it I think, so yeah. All right. Well, let's get just an initial status report on where we are, whoever wants to deliver that.

MR. PEREZ: So, Your Honor, this is Alfredo Perez.

Thank you for hearing -- listening to us today.

Your Honor, I think as it relates to -- we had a very long meet-and-confer the day after the hearing with all of the sureties. And at that time and since that time we have produced documents, some of which have -- did not exist prior to yesterday and some of which they didn't know existed or -- and some of which they asked for. And we've done that. So I think on the document production front, I don't think that there is any issue of either documents that are not -- that have not been produced or documents that are not in the process of being produced as they were recently requested.

I think the fundamental issue is the schedule.

And I think is the schedule that has the confirmation

hearing on May 17th. In view of the fact that, you know,

substantial production has already occurred, and we're talking about being, you know, six, seven weeks out, I think we can proceed on that schedule. That is I think a delay of two months from that May 17th date I think would be catastrophic to the company. And I don't say that lightly. And, you know, and I'm not necessarily prone to hyperbole but I do believe that would be the case. But I think in terms of the documents, you know, all of the requests, whether they've been asked for or not, have now been addressed.

And to the extent that there is additional information, we're happy to continue to provide. I mean, I can assure the Court there's absolutely nothing that they've asked for that we haven't produced or are in the process of producing. So I think the issue is the timing. And we would, you know, request that the Court -- I mean, we're seven -- we're, you know, six weeks out. I think that's plenty of time, things can be double-tracked. And we'll work our hardest to not be the impediment here, Your Honor.

that you intend to offer that you will use at confirmation?

MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, the -- so there -- we had a valuation. I don't know whether any -- I mean, so we will have an expert report on valuation. That will be produced

THE COURT: Do you have any more expert reports

25 | in the ordinary course.

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              THE COURT: Well when?
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             MR. PEREZ: We have --
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              THE COURT: No, by when though? Because I'm
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   worried about --
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             MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, --
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              THE COURT: -- giving them a chance to deal with
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   what you've got. You know, if you give it to them on the
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    16th, then that isn't going to work.
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             MR. PEREZ: No. Your Honor, we had indicated that
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    expert reports would be due by April 28th. And to the
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   extent we want to move that up a week, I mean, we're happy
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    to try to accommodate that date. I mean, we're not talking
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    about, you know, expert discovery until significantly after
    that. But we're happy to move up that expert report.
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             And, Your Honor, let me just back up. At the end
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   of the day, we're going to see exactly how much of this
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   actually gets used because I'm not sure that valuation is an
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   issue in this case. But obviously we'll be guided by what
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    the sureties say, but I don't think that valuation is an
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    issue. So we will have obviously to the extent someone
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    challenges, we have a liquidation, you know, the meets the
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   best interest test, so we obviously have a person, you know,
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   who would testify as to that. And I think the bulk of the
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rest of the testimony would come from the company, you know,

Mr. Dane or someone else. That would be the bulk of the

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testimony. We have not -- there is no other expert that we retained that we're going to spring on them.
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THE COURT: Would you do me a favor before we go to others? And I know that when we were in the last hearing, there was a written schedule you had proposed. I just want to take another look at that. That may be on Ms. Choi's PowerPoint or it may be a document but I need to see that.

MR. PEREZ: Yes. I think we filed it but Ms. Choi can put that up.

MR. SPEAKER: And, Your Honor, if it helps, we also filed a proposed schedule with a notice this afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Mr. Million filed that. And it has their proposed dates and our proposed dates on it for Your Honor's convenience.

THE COURT: Thank you. Let me pull that up then, 1210.

MR. SPEAKER: That's accurate, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Hold on a second. I'm going to take back the screen, Ms. Choi, from you. And I use one that has the side-by-side so give me a second.

(Pause from 4:05 p.m. to 4:06 p.m.)

MR. PEREZ: And, Your Honor, I don't if the Court's reviewing this, but --

THE COURT: I can listen. Go ahead.

MR. PEREZ: Okay. So, Your Honor, with respect to the deadline to serve discovery requests, we've actually received lots of discovery requests. We're responding to them, you know, seriatim. We're not waiting the whole time period to respond. And so to the extent there's any additional requests, we would, you know, we would certainly entertain them. That's not intended to be a bar. But, you know, the discovery requests have some in the last couple of weeks and they've been extensive, and we've complied. So I don't think that that deadline is a hard bar.

Obviously we're going to have the Disclosure Statement hearing. And with respect to the information that we've received, we've committed to complete production by the 21st. And to the extent that there additional -- is additional information, we'll continue to produce it, so that's not an issue.

So the first, you know, deadline, Your Honor, would be the expert report. And as I've said, you know, we're happy to move that up a week. I don't think that's going to create a hardship for us. I think we're -- we can move that up and serve our expert report at the same time we conclude the document request.

And then, Your Honor, in terms of discovery, we basically have from the 21st through we have, you know, three weeks, three full weeks for discovery, and then the

confirmation hearing on the 17th -- almost four weeks for discovery, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. PEREZ: So I --

THE COURT: What's the Rule 3018(a) motion

deadline about?

MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, there we -- in connection with the plan, the way that the voting worked was to the extent you had a contingent, unliquidated claim, we gave you a dollar vote. So to the extent someone wanted to -- who had a contingent, unliquidated claim, wanted to vote something other than a dollar, we would have them, you know, file a motion and tell us that. And then there are some claims that have been filed in large amounts that we think are contingent, unliquidated and they've been filed as if they're not contingent, unliquidated, so it's a -- it's really more to determine voting.

As a practical matter, Your Honor, I'm not sure this is not a situation where, you know, we need an impaired consenting class or anything like that. I mean, and there's no recovery to equity so it's not like if the general unsecureds reject the plan, I mean, there's not going to be a big cramdown fight. But we would like to have that, you know, fleshed out.

THE COURT: All right. Let me hear from other

people that want to make a comment.

MR. EISENBERG: Thank you, Your Honor, Philip Eisenberg on behalf of U.S. Specialty Insurance Company and HCCI.

May I be heard, your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. EISENBERG: Thank you, Your Honor.

We -- the -- going to the first thing that you -the last thing you mentioned, the 3018 deadline and our
request for estimation deadline that we put into our
proposed schedule and then took the dates that were already
in the old -- in the proposed order, that's very important
for us, Your Honor, because of the way that they have given
folks only a one dollar vote or things of that nature and
what we think there's going to be disparate treatment for
folks in the unsecured class.

And so if they're going to try to disallow claims or have those disallowed by just simply virtue of them entering into their proposed order, that was certainly an issue we were going to bring up on 4/9 when we talked about the issues for the disclosure hearing. But we felt that it needed to be built into this deadline as -- into this schedule as well because we think that claims allowance, or at least for voting purposes, is very important in this case for the unsecured classes themselves and the treatment

because some of the unsecureds are getting certain treatment that other unsecureds or not, and who's in what class for what company is being formed here is very important.

And so we built that in, Your Honor, and so our schedule allows for that. I just wanted to kind of follow on -- follow-up on that. I didn't want to put too fine a point on it, Your Honor, but we did build that into the schedule, and that's more for the planning meeting for the Disclosure Statement hearing.

But from the standpoint from status, I do want to, you know, commend my colleague, Mr. Perez, and the folks that he's working with, his entire team, that when we did have our meet-and-confer, they did meet us more than halfway, Your Honor, and we do appreciate that. And we are in the process of having things produced.

We have had some things that we thought we should have gotten perhaps six -- as much as six weeks ago, they're coming now. And we're starting to digest them. The reason why we put the 4/14 deadline in there for the request is because even today as things are getting rolled out, we started to identify things that are not necessarily there, that we don't understand, that we need further backup on, and so now that we're getting the production flowing that we thought we should have gotten sooner, that we're going to need time to identify what else that implies, including what

other witnesses we might need beyond the six to eight witnesses we've identified, plus the expert witnesses. And that's just for the sureties, Your Honor, and that's just from us taking depositions, not anybody else's in the case. And so that's why we put that in there.

We take Mr. Perez at his word that they will continue to roll it out. I really don't see a -- you know, if they want to expedite their expert report, that's one thing. But we definitely need the time we built in here to now digest what they have and to move forward.

Like I said, I think we feel like we're, you know, four to six weeks behind on this from where we should have been. We are very pleased with the progress we're making and the -- and we want to move forward. From the standpoint of are we going to use this, this information's critical, Your Honor.

As they pointed out, 63 percent of the decommissioning and really a lot of the properties are in Fieldwood One. And making sure that that is a viable going concern, how that company's going to be able to move forward, how it's going to be governed, how it's going to be capitalized, how the P&A schedule is going to jive with the actual performance of the properties themselves, whether they've got a process to monetize some of the more valuable properties that might raise cash and eliminate some of the

decommissioning exposures at the back end, those are all things we're examining and we're analyzing.

And that's critically important to the sureties that have over seven -- like \$700 million on that risk, Your Honor. It's very important. And so we are making very important use of this, particularly to decide how to participate in this bankruptcy. We want Fieldwood One to be as viable a company as it can be. But we're concerned with several of the constructs and with understanding what the company is made up of, the cashflows, what's going to move forward, what's not going to move forward, how they're going to address decommissioning, how they're going to address capitalization. These are all critical for us.

And so, yes, this is very important information and it's why we have been so focused on trying to develop this over time, Your Honor.

And so as you've pointed out, we're going to need time with their expert report and -- their expert reports.

And so we have built that in to the schedule as well. And we felt like the schedule that had been originally proposed which had the May 17 confirmation date, it was incredibly tight, Your Honor.

And now that we've gotten the process of information, we feel that additional time should be provided. We've made our proposal. We shared it with

Debtors this morning before we filed it on the Record. And we're willing to continue to talk to them about it. We feel like that this is very important for us to be able to get this right and to have the parties to have a fair opportunity in this very complex case. This is like several of the oil company cases we had all wrapped up into one and then put on steroids, Your Honor.

There are a lot of moving parts, as Your Honor has said. And we want to get this one right. We're very concerned that we had a Chapter 11 in 2018, we've had one now in 2020. We are concerned about the possibility of this — the process that's being put here not working in whole or in part. And so we are moving with all deliberation to do that and so that's why we have laid out our schedule.

The last thing that I wanted to talk about is that time would be catastrophic for the company. I'm not sure I'm onboard with that. There's been no draw on the DIP except for the upfront fees. They've just filed their monthly operating report that says they have a hundred million in free, unencumbered cash. There's \$29 million in positive cashflow right now from the company. And the company is operating. And we don't think that a six to seven-week modification to this schedule is catastrophic in the way that Mr. Perez has described.

So we have a difference of opinion on that based

on the facts as we see them and the fact that it's taken this long just to get to the point where we have the information where we can now weigh in to do the analysis we have with our clients, many of which are over in Europe and which, you know, which we have to explain the process to, and it takes a little bit more time to get their input on this.

And we certainly want to be able to have a meaningful process here. And we're not the only ones. There are other folks involved. We haven't heard from any of them but we think that the schedule we put out there is a more viable schedule based on the realities of what we have to do here in this very complex case.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Eisenberg.

Does anybody else wish to address the schedule or other issues right now?

(No audible response)

workable schedule from what I'm hearing. But I -- this isn't something I'm going to order until I hear you all tell me that I'm simply wrong about it. So I'm going to put back up Mr. Million's schedule. Here's what I am suggesting as workable, and that is that we have the discovery conference obviously today.

On April the 9th, that there will be a planning

meeting regarding the Disclosure Statement hearing, but that will not be in court, it will be private. If there are disputes you can bring them to court. The deadline to serve discovery requests will be April 14th. The Disclosure Statement hearing will be April 14. The completion of document production will be April 30th. The completion of responses to all other discovery requests will be April 30th.

The Debtors' expert report deadline for matters on which it has the initial burden will be April 21st.

Everyone else's disclosure deadline for experts on matters on which they have the burden of proof will be May 10th.

Fact witness depositions will begin immediately, so April 2nd, and will end on May 10th. Rule 3018 motions will be due by May 7th. Requests for estimations must be filed by May 7th. Rebuttal expert reports will be due by May 24th by all parties.

In other words, I'm only giving the Debtors

14 days to do rebuttal expert reports; everybody else gets

quite a bit of time. Expert witness deposition have to end

by June 4th. The plan supplement is due June 2nd. The

voting deadline is June 2nd. The deadline to file

confirmation objections is June 2nd. The ballot

certification deadline is June 7th. The deadline to file

the confirmation brief and the reply to plan objections will

be June 4th. And the confirmation hearing will be on June the 9th starting at 9:00 in the morning.

If anybody thinks that doesn't meet what we have to do, feel free to argue it. I'm trying to move faster than what I know the sureties want to move, but I agree that this is complicated enough, I'm not quite as comfortable with the Debtors' schedule as what they have proposed either.

Am I causing any terrible heartburn to anybody, they want to argue against it?

Mr. Perez, go ahead.

MR. PEREZ: Yeah, Your Honor, I think this puts us in a horrible position, but obviously, you know, I've come to court and won some stuff and come to court and lost it. This is a loss but we are, you know, we'd love to be able to move it up at least a week but if that's the Court's inclination, I'd certainly like to hear from Mr. Schaible because, you know, we've got a bunch of milestones and he so far has been very accommodating. But that would be important.

MR. EISENBERG: Your Honor, I -- while I've been doing all the talking, I'm not the only one with considerations here.

But we do take your point, and moving up their

THE COURT: Mr. Eisenberg, let me hear from you.

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   expert report deadline to give us additional time is
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   helpful, Your Honor, and so we do appreciate Your Honor's
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    consideration and in many of the deadlines that are in
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    there.
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              And so I think we can work through this.
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   Obviously if there's something that comes up, we know we can
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    come back to court. But we do appreciate everybody's
    courtesies and Your Honor's view on this. And but I'm not
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    the only one. And this certainly -- we did not solicit the
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   predecessor's view and whether they --
              THE COURT: No, I got it. I know you're speaking
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    for yourself but you took the lead and I'm going to --
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              MR. EISENBERG:
                              Okay.
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              THE COURT: I'm just trying to go around the room.
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              MR. EISENBERG: Yes, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: Mr. Schaible.
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              MR. SCHAIBLE: Your Honor, thanks for
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    (indiscernible). Damian Schaible, Davis Polk, on behalf of
    the Ad Hoc Group of Secured Creditors.
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Your Honor, your timing is within our, you know, we (indiscernible) maturity of the DIP (indiscernible) extend milestones under the RSA. Again, (indiscernible) you know, every day (indiscernible) that a lot can happen and a lot can fall apart (indiscernible) everything else. But I'm not going to tell Your Honor that we can't make this

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schedule work if Your Honor thinks (indiscernible) schedule.
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              THE COURT: Let me hear anyone that wants to
   object to those deadlines then.
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          (No audible response)
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              THE COURT: All right. Look, if something turns
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   out not to work, and that can go both directions, you all
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    can come back in and, you know, seek a change. If somebody
   needs to take some deposition earlier than what somebody
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    doesn't agree to, Mr. Perez, from your point of view, or if
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   you need an extra day or two from, you know, Mr. Brescia's
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   point of view, and you all can't work that out, I'm here.
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             Why don't you all upload an order that does this,
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    include a provision that says -- think about a way that you
   all can voluntarily agree to move some dates around without
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   having to come back to court every time you reach an
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   agreement. That may not be --
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             MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, --
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             THE COURT: -- possible because there are so many
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   of you.
             I don't know.
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             MR. PEREZ: Your Honor, I don't really have a
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   problem moving dates around. And I think from the
   standpoint of the Debtor, we're going to be flexible. Our
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   biggest concern is the June date. That's a real concern.
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   You know, --
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THE COURT: It's a real date.

1 MR. PEREZ: -- first of all, I --2 THE COURT: It's a real date. I'm not going to --3 I'm not backing up on that June date without something 4 catastrophic occurring. I mean, I'm not going to say never, but that's the real confirmation date. But the intervening 5 6 dates I want you all to be free to move around on your own. 7 And giving you have this many parties, figure out a workable way to do that without having to come to court every time 8 9 you need to do it. 10 MR. PEREZ: Understand, Your Honor, and understand that the Court has ruled. But to the extent that the Court 11 12 is ruling because you think that we haven't -- that there should have been information that was -- should have been 13 provided that wasn't provided, I think we're prepared to 14 discuss that. 15 Most of the information -- it is hard, we don't 16 17 disagree with that. But most of the information that is 18 provided, we're providing in real time. And what they've asked for we have provided. So the suggestion that this is 19 20 being done because somehow we should have given them 21 information a long time ago is just simply not correct. 22 THE COURT: I made --23 MR. PEREZ: And I just want to make sure the 24 Court --25 THE COURT: I absolutely am making no such

finding. No, I'm just trying to come to a workable schedule where I think people can get fully prepared for one of the more complicated P&A programs probably ever confronted anywhere. This is going to be hard. And I know it's going to be hard and I don't want to put people in a position where have to come and make arguments where their experts haven't had a chance to get fully engaged or to evaluate what you've done.

But everything I'm hearing, Mr. Perez, is that the Debtor has been totally forthcoming with everything. I'm hearing zero complaints. I heard some, you know, earlier, but they're not -- and not today. And I'm not doing this because of that. If I thought that you had been sandbagging them on stuff, we wouldn't be talking June 9th. I mean, so it's --

MR. PEREZ: All right, Your Honor, understood,
Your Honor. And, you know, to the extent that from a
business standpoint, because this is what we're talking
about, I'm not talking about the, you know, so much the
dates here. We're talking about what can this company
withstand? So to the extent from a business standpoint we
feel that the company is impaired, we'll come back to you.

THE COURT: I'll be here. Does anybody else want to voice any objections to these deadlines?

(No audible response)

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THE COURT: Okay. That's what we'll adopt. What
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    else can we accomplish today?
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          (No audible response)
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              Okay. We are in adjournment. I appreciate
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    everybody's help. Thank you.
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         (Proceeding adjourned at 4:28 p.m.)
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               I certify that the foregoing is a correct
 9
    transcript to the best of my ability due to the condition of
10
    the electronic sound recording of the ZOOM/telephonic
11
    proceedings in the above-entitled matter.
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    /S/ MARY D. HENRY
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